



## NEWSLETTER

December 1978

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I attended meetings of our society in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, thus completing my tour of all state branches. It is pleasing to report that all branches are viable and actively pursuing the objects of our society, viz. the advancement of dentistry for children in Australia.

I have also had the opportunity to compare the manner each state is dealing with the advent of dental therapists into the work field. Unfortunately, in two states some A.D.A. members have formed into anti-therapist societies. To date, none of our members have seen fit to join the dissenting groups, for which we can be thankful.

Realistically, if the complaint against the therapist scheme is based on dentists' loss of income, no political body would be interested. (Dentists are a minority group of voters.) However, if figures can be produced to show the cost to the public for the therapist scheme is greater than the cost would be for graduate dentists to perform the same work, the politicians might be induced to alter the therapist scheme actually to deal with the dentally underprivileged, as was originally mooted.

My plea is that whatever tenet you as members of our society hold to, please keep it cool.

I can take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, holy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

J.C. KEYS

### FROM THE FEDERAL SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

1. The Federal Council met in Adelaide on 4th November.
2. Annual Programme: It is hoped to produce a composite programme for each member. On it would be listed dates, if not details, of the meeting of

each branch for the year. This could help members in planning interstate trips.

3. I.A.D.C. July 1979 in Budapest. It is pleasing to note that a sizable Australian contingent will be attending. The Federal President, John Keys, will be our Delegate. Vice-President Dr. Kevin Allen and former President Dr. Roger Hall plan to present papers.
4. Council has decided, subject to the approval of the branches, to present an annual certificate to the student achieving the highest marks in Paedodontics in each Dental School in Australia, and to also award to the successful students a year's honorary membership of A.S.D.C.
5. (a) Council approved the principle of extending an invitation to A.S.D.C. Biennial Conventions to Clinical Dental Students, if the Convention is held in a city where there is a Dental School.  
(b) Council plans to recommend amending the A.S.D.C. Constitution to include a class of Student Membership. This membership would be open to Student members of the A.D.A.
6. Newsletter - Council approved the Editor's plan to include a page of appropriate abstracts from Journals. The Editor will be developing this idea in the coming months.
7. It was a pleasure to attend the courses conducted recently by the Victorian and South Australian Branches. Both branches are to be commended for their presentations, and I would take this opportunity of encouraging members to patronise courses being conducted by other State Branches which emphasises the importance of getting the Programme Card established.

ALISTAIR DEVLIN

N.S.W. BRANCH

Our first year as an affiliated Branch of A.S.D.C. was completed at the 2nd Annual General Meeting on 21st November, 1978 held at The Sydney University Union. Office bearers elected for 1979 are:-

President - Tom Mackay  
 Secretary - Ross Toll  
 Treasurer - Ray Aston  
 Committee Member-John Lockwood

The Guest Speaker, Dr. Bob Graham a private practitioner, has helped to establish dental clinics for aboriginal children on Bathurst Island, Port Keat and Alice Springs. His talk was both entertaining and full of interest but above all it was inspiring. It is anticipated that many A.S.D.C. members will volunteer for honorary service and thus augment the present panel of 31 dentists. Bob is to be congratulated for his achievements especially as his efforts are a practical example of the application of A.S.D.C. objectives.

In 1979 the first general meeting will be held on 13th February and will be devoted entirely to business. Our first clinical meeting on 13th March will have Dr. A.P. Martin, specialist Endodontist as guest speaker and his topic is "The Treatment of Traumatized Anterior Teeth of Children". Other meeting dates for 1979 are:-

May 29th, July 31st, & September 18th  
 November 20th (Annual General) &  
 November 16th (Social)

TOM MACKAY

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Members Meet at Toowoomba - Over a dozen members of A.S.D.C. met at a dental seminar and bi-monthly meeting at Toowoomba. This meeting took place at the end of September with a very energetic group of speakers. President Ian Walke introduced the speakers and the subjects.

Dr. T.M. McInerney....Caries Levels.  
 Dr. J.M. Brown....Universal Applications of Composite Resins.  
 Dr. J.C. Keys....Modified Pulpotomy Techniques with Chlorophenol Paraformaldehyde Combinations.  
 Dr. R. Mason....Orthodontic Psychology.  
 Dr. Eric Tolmie....Review of Effects of Exhaled Anaesthetic Gases on Dental Personnel.

Dr. R.G.B. Smith....Survey of the Dental Needs and Aspects of Treatment of a school population.

The day was completed with an evening dinner served at the Downs Club where members, wives and guests met and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

November Meeting - Dr. Jago Speaks on the Year of the Child.

Dr. J. Jago of University of Queensland, Dental Department spoke of the "Year of the Child in 1979". He emphasised the very important position of the child and his upbringing in all parts of the world. He projected slides to depict different children and their different cultural backgrounds. He spoke on the relation of the child, his dental health, the different customs and creeds in the upgrading of different children around the world. He emphasised the place that the Dental Profession has taken over years of service to mankind. He forewarned the part dentists can take in future and especially in 1979 - The Year of the Child.

A.H. SAHU KHAN

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

The Branch has been active. At our September meeting the guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Fanning gave a most enlightening talk "The Role of Nutrition in Dentistry for the General Practitioner". Dr. Fanning stated that eating habits begun in infancy were reinforced throughout life. The combination of food technology with big business, particularly with the advent of fast food establishments has increased the intake of fat, salt and sugar. The subsequent health shift in relation to these items will need careful observation.

Advertising was being aimed more at children particularly, e.g. on television in prime audience times (4-6 pm). Children, it appeared, often told parents what they should be buying.

Dr. Fanning dealt particularly with:

1. Cereals: Many cereals had a large % of sugar added to the products. The three major cereal producing companies and their products were cited. Kelloggs produced e.g. Puffed Wheat and Read Weets which had no added sugar, but at the other extreme Coco Pops and Honey Smacks contained 39% and 51% added sugar.

Sanitarium produced e.g. Puffed Wheat and Wheat Germ with no added sugar, but also Honey Weets which contained 29.5% total added sugar. However the largest selling cereal in Australia, Weet Bix contained 1.8% total added sugar. Nabisco had not yet forwarded any figures. In America some products contained up to 70% added sugar, which is horrifying compared with the average 37% of added sugar in confectionary.

2. Instant drink products: The powders such as Tang and Quick were regarded as unsuitable additives. However, Milo and Akta-Vite received some reprieve.
3. Vitamin C supplements: It was suggested that if these had to be taken, they should be in the form of powders or tablets. In aqueous solution they have a very short shelf life and usually were loaded with sugar.

During the intense discussion which followed, other items were raised which included the addition of sugar to oral antibiotics and some long term drugs, e.g. the fact that Dilantin contained 30% added sugar was cited.

In October, the Society held its First Country Convention at Tanunda in the Barossa Valley. The guest lecturers maintained an extremely high standard. Dr. Laurie Smart spoke on the "Prevalence of Malocclusion" in Australia, concentrating on the categories for whom he considered treatment, and the age at which treatment should begin. Dr. Bryon Kardachi gave a lecture on Periodontal Disease; an update on the current principles of the disease process and a concise explanation of the various factors leading to different forms of periodontal disease.

On the Saturday the speakers were Dr. Ed Chau who presented a concise and practical lecture on Oral Pathology in Childhood. Professor Pilowsky, Professor of Psychiatry University of Adelaide, gave an incredibly informative talk on Pain in Childhood, the reactions of the child and the expectations, interpretations and reactions of the dentist to the various situations in which he found himself. Dr. David Roder spoke on Community Dentistry and the Child and the ramifications of over-production of dentists and therapists.

Five minute papers were presented after the second session on Friday. Dr. John Brown (Qld.) spoke on other types of composite resin restoration, which included restoring the buccal cusps of upper premolars. Dr. Joe Verco spoke on Anterior composite bridges to replace the avulsed primary tooth. Dr. John Burrow presented a case of caries in an infant possibly related to prolonged frequent breast feeding.

The organising committee is already in full swing preparing for the Third National Clinical Meeting to be held in Adelaide, June 28th and 29th, 1979.

J. VERCO

#### VICTORIAN BRANCH

The year is gone; all meetings have been well attended.

On Thursday 2nd November a record number of members and guests attended to hear Dr. John Court, physician at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, lecture on obesity in childhood, pointing out the particular problems in diagnosing the different forms of obesity and the need for dentists, amongst other health professionals, to understand the nature of weight gain in order to counsel such children and families in diet as well as form reasonable expectations of future weight management. Present at that meeting were three notable interstate guests - Dr. John Keys, Federal President and Dr. Alistair Devlin, Federal Secretary, both were in Melbourne for the Handicapped Day organized by this branch, and before going on to the A.S.D.C. Council Meeting in Adelaide. Also Dr. John Brown from the University of Queensland Dental School, who was a lecturer at the Handicapped Day.

"Dentistry for the Handicapped Patient", our second Convention Day for the year, was attended by more than 30 people including two visitors from N.S.W., and one from S.A. Support from our interstate friends is pleasing.

John Brown presented an overview of the dental health problems that face the handicapped, and how these can only really be tackled by prevention at all levels. Dr. Allan Mawdsley, in charge of child psychiatric services in Victoria, spoke on the problems in handling the emotionally and socially disturbed child in clinical practice. Dr. Des Crack, of Melbourne, who followed was able to detail the dental

needs of the handicapped further, referring to those who are institutionalized as well as to the, by no means insignificant, group of home-bound persons existing in any community. This latter group, relatively speaking, receive virtually no dental care on an organized basis, because they are non-vocal. After an enjoyable lunch, Dr. Roger Hall, from the Children's Hospital spoke on the special dental care and attention required by sick and hospitalized children. The afternoon concluded with a short discussion amongst the participants and speakers. We hope the theme examined that day can be further investigated in our future programmes.

This year, it was decided to hold the Annual General Dinner on 24th November at a city restaurant with a definitely Greek touch, as befits this third largest Greek city in the world.

The programme for 1979 promises to be busy; as well as the normal dinner meetings, on March 1st, May 3rd, July 5th and September 6th, we are having a "Team Dentistry" Day at the Therapy School, where in June we held our first "Community Dentistry Symposium". We have also been invited by the South West group of the A.O.A. to participate in a "Children's Dentistry" Day at Warrnambool.

The Victorian branch extends its best wishes to other State branches for a successful year ahead.

JOHN WILDE

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

The 1978 Programme was concluded on Monday 6th November, when the Annual General Meeting and Dinner were held at the Riverside Lodge in Perth. A record number of members and their partners attended this successful function. After the enjoyable dinner, the meeting was addressed by the Guest-of-Honour, A.S.D.C. Federal President, Dr. John Keys. He spoke on "The Effect of Spurious Advertising on Children". His research had unearthed many interesting facts, and Dr. Keys put forward some ideas on why caries rates were declining despite this advertising, particularly in areas without water fluoridation schemes. Following this address, a short business meeting was conducted. The following officers were elected:

President: Dr. Laurie Bartlett  
Vice President: Dr. David Neesham

Secretary-  
Treasurer:  
Committee:

Dr. Alistair Devlin  
Ass.Prof.D.G.Kallis  
Dr. J. Hands  
Dr. Sean Bartlett  
(no relation to the President!)

Dr. Keys had spent the morning of the 6th November at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Subiaco, where he was able to observe the Dental Unit operating.

Western Australian Branch members have noted with pleasure that the first candidate of the University of W.A. for the Degree of Master of Dental Science in Paedodontics is to be Dr. Peter Gregory. He will be commencing in early 1979.

At this stage evening meetings for 1979 will be April 18th, June 20th and August 15th. The date of the Annual General Meeting and Dinner is yet to be finalised.

ALISTAIR DEVLIN

#### TASMANIAN BRANCH

Since the last Newsletter the Branch has held a clinical meeting devoted to "Introduction to Relative Analgesia" on November 26th at the School of Dental Therapy, Hobart. The Tutor Clinician was Dr. Dick Fitzgerald.

Dr. Fitzgerald has had considerable experience in this field in England and Australia. In England (1963-73) he was a clinical demonstrator on the S.A.A.O. Course and conducted one day courses in England and Ireland as well as lecturing to B.D.A. Study Groups. Since his return to Tasmania he has participated in A.S.A.A.S.D. courses in Hobart and Adelaide.

The tutorial consisted of lectures and practical demonstrations conducted over morning and afternoon sessions. The expertise of the lecturer was clearly evident and aroused much interest among the members present.

A business meeting is planned for the new year at a venue and time to be arranged.

PETER BOLSTER